

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

10 June 1980

Dear Herman,

Thanks for your letter of May 23rd concerning [] interest in writing a doctoral dissertation on the role of National Intelligence Estimates in national security decision-making.

We certainly want to do all we can to encourage serious students to address the role of intelligence in the national security arena--at least in part because of the benefit to be gained from documenting our contribution. On the other hand, [] has chosen a particularly difficult subject on which to do unclassified research. Indeed, to prepare a dissertation on the role of NIEs (or of intelligence analysis in any form) in national security decision-making would almost require access to classified and often very sensitive documents not only at CIA but also at the White House and other departments of government. Such access is virtually impossible to obtain. I am afraid that without such access any study that [] might do could only scratch the surface and would likely not be of dissertation quality.

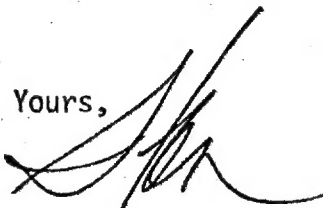
If in the light of this discouraging news [] still wishes to write his dissertation on NIEs, we will try to help him to the extent we properly can. On the other hand, perhaps he would prefer to look at some other aspects of intelligence. There are other fields where the impediments are less. We have a Center for the Study of Intelligence which should be able to provide him some guidance on intelligence-related subjects for which there is an ample body of unclassified literature upon which he might draw for his research.

In sum, I think the best course is for [] to drop me a note directly on just what he wants to accomplish and where he thinks we can help him. I'll be happy to put him in touch with whoever in our organization can do the most for him under whatever limitations prevail.

Wish I could be more helpful. We need the assistance of people like [] to look at our work from the outside. It just isn't always feasible.

With all best wishes.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

Mr. Herman Wouk